

The Scriptures Summarized / Book 22 – Song of Solomon

This Love Song concludes the wisdom section of the English versions of the OT. Proverbs is about rules for life. Ecclesiastes is the regrets of life. This volume is the romance of life. It is likely written early in Solomon's reign as king. It may have been written by him, but could also just be about him.

This book was entitled in Hebrew as the Song of Songs, meaning it was the most superlative of all of Solomon's 1005 musical compositions. It delightfully stands in stark contrast to the doom of Ecclesiastes. You see, the fear of death is replaced by the fragrance of desire.

In the Hebrew Cannon of Scripture this book was considered part of the 5 volume Megilloth. These books were read to celebrate the Jewish Holidays. Ruth was read at Pentecost. Ecclesiastes was used at Tabernacles. At the anniversary of the Fall of Jerusalem, the reflection was on Lamentations. Esther was recited during Purim. Solomon's Love Song was read during Passover.

The love song, with its explicit subject matter, was treated with discretion by the Jewish Rabbis. Unmarried youngsters weren't allowed to read it until age 30. This book addresses, without shame, the blessings and pleasures of intimacy within the confines of marriage.

Song of Solomon 2:16 My beloved is mine and I am his; he browses among the lilies. **(6:3)** I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine; he browses among the lilies.

Like the book of Esther, this book does not mention God. This, along with its erotic material, has caused some to question its inclusion into Scripture.

Others see a connection between the concept of spousal love and sacred love, which is the highest Christian character quality. After all, Jesus is depicted as a loving bridegroom in the NT. However, seeing these poems as a type of Christ doesn't seem warranted by the entire text.

Unless key words indicate that any Scriptural passage is an allegory, (as, like, in the same way) we must interpret the material literally. Thus, this book is simply a collection of Solomon's poems and songs about love, arranged in parts. It is not to be categorized as allegory, type, drama, hymn, history nor ceremony. It is however, a celebration of marital intimacy and pleasure.

The book celebrates God's gifts to humans of sexual attraction, physical intimacy, marital relationships, personal identity, and satisfying meaning to life.

- I. Poems that remember the Couple's Beginning together
 - A. Excitement
 - B. Courtship
 - C. Romance
- II. Poems that rejoice in the Couple's Bonding together
 - A. Expectation
 - B. Consummation
 - C. Rapture
- III. Poems that reflect on the Couple Being together
 - A. Enjoyment
 - B. Commitment
 - C. Relationship